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Niagara Advance
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Thursday, March 24, 2016

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Spring flowers deliver smiles 9

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Crystal Bunny coming to town

PENNY COLES/NIAGARA ADVANCE

When Crystal the Bunny hopped into Niagara Nursery School during its March Break camp, Matthew Bogusat, Oliver Corry-Danieluk, George Gitoi, Leah Luton and Brooklyn Neudorf crowded around to show her the Easter eggs they had decorated. Crystal will be at the NOTL Kinsmen Easter Egg Hunt Saturday morning at 10 a.m., and at the Niagara Nursery School Bunny Trail that follows. For more information please see Page 22.

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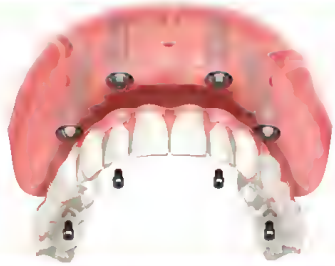

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Without tree buffer, Virgil development threatens privacy of its neighbours

SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

There was only one objection this time at a second public meeting for a new subdivision on Concession 4 Rd. in Virgil, but councillors want answers about the design of the housing and the fate of the mature trees.

The community and development advisory committee recommended approval of the Woodcastle Acres development Monday which would include 12 single detached homes and 50 townhouses. However, that is conditional on the review of the building drawings by the urban design committee and staff will continue to have discussions with the developer on efforts to save as many trees on the property as possible.

Tony Hendriks, who lives on Diana Drive, objected to the destruction of trees and the possibility of two-storey townhouses behind his property.

"If you don't have a buffer of trees, you need some kind of a barrier," he said at the public meeting.

"A six-block unit townhouse – I don't think that's appropriate and I don't think you should allow it."

Planner Lee White, who represented the developer, said there have been a few changes to the subdivision plans since the last public meeting in January. The new plans include more parkland and a connection to the Virgil Sports Park.

Director of community and development services John Henricks said the majority of the trees along the boulevard cannot be saved due to drainage. The new subdivision is lower than existing areas around it.

Henricks said the developer's landscaping plans call for replacement of the trees that need to be removed and the additional planting of one tree per housing unit.

"The developer will do what they can to save trees, but it will be difficult," he said. "We need to be realistic."

Some councillors wondered if the developer should also be required to provide a privacy fence around the new subdivision. Henricks said the town has not discussed that with the neighbouring residents, so he doesn't know how many of them would want it.

The development proposal, with the conditions added regarding the design of the buildings and efforts to save mature trees, goes to council next week for final approval.

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News Briefs

Lions food drive Saturday

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Lions Club will be having its annual food drive for Newark Neighbours this Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The food drive will be held at Phil's Valu-mart in Virgil and Hendrik's Valu-mart on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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Committee members may be able to call it in

SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

Members of some committees appointed by Niagara-on-the-Lake town council may soon be able to participate in meetings electronically if they are unable to attend in person.

"As committee members are volunteers with busy schedules, it is difficult to always have a quorum available for a meeting," staff reported to the corporate services advisory committee Monday.

"In today's society, there are different electronic methods for members to participate at a meeting."

Staff recommended that telephone or face-time options be available only for committees that report directly to council, such as the municipal heritage committee and the active transportation committee. They did not advise that committees that do not report directly to council, like the committee of adjustment and the library board, be allowed to use electronic methods.

"It should also be noted that whenever possible, the member should be present in person, but due to things such as illness or out-of-the- country vacation, they could take part via the electronic meeting process," staff reported.

Another staff recommendation that the procedural bylaw be amended to allow council members to participate in special council meetings electronically if necessary sparked some debate among councillors.

"I think it's really important that members of council be here for council meetings," said Coun. Betty Disero, calling the recommendation "the beginning of a slippery slope".

"There needs to be more respect for the office of council," she said. "It would take away from that respect if we had councillors calling in."

Coun. John Wiens said the electronic option would only be used if a special council meeting were called that involved a time-sensitive issue and there was no quorum.

Director of corporate services Holly Dowd said the towns of Lincoln and Pelham allow for this procedure for emergency purposes for special council meetings.

"It just allows us a bit of leeway," Lord Mayor Pat Darte added.

The corporate services advisory committee recommended approval of the bylaw changes for electronic participation in some committees and for special council meetings. An amendment was made to the provision for special council meetings that specifies it would only be used when there is no quorum.

A final decision on the proposed changes will be made by council Monday.

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Hat tipped to new shipping season

BOB TYMCZYSZYN/ POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A top hat is presented to Capt. Jason Church of the Thunder Bay, the first upbound ship through the Welland Canal Monday. The Top Hat Ceremony, held annually at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canal Centre, celebrates the opening of canal for the navigation season. With Church is the ship's chief engineer Jerry Stemmler.

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

The Thunder Bay moved through Lock 3 on the Welland Canal Monday, marking the opening of what promises to be an unsettled season of shipping on the Great Lakes.

The ship was carrying a load of road salt from Windsor to Bowmanville and is making the first upbound transit of the canal two weeks early this year. Whether that early start is a barbinger of good things to come remains to be seen.

Terry Bowles, president and CEO of St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp., was optimistic in addressing an audience gathered at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre for the Top Hat Ceremony, which celebrates the opening of the navigation season on the canal.

Bowles emphasized that the seaway serves as a vital trade artery. The early spring is a bonus. Last year at this time the lakes were clogged with ice.

"We certainly welcome the warmer weather," Bowles said. "A return to an opening in the third week of March provides our clients with the opportunity to move cargo in a timely manner, and make the most of the navigation season."

Allister Paterson, president of Canada Steamship Lines, which owns the Thunder Bay, said the forecast for shippers is "pretty gloomy."

Statistics back that up. The seaway handled almost 9.5 per cent less traffic by tonnage in 2015 compared to 2014.

Paterson said an economic slowdown in China is having an impact on shipping worldwide. The industry underwent an expansion and added ships to its fleets when China's economy was booming.

"With China slowing down, we have too many ships chasing not enough cargo," he said.

Bowles believes there is reason for optimism on tbe seaway. A lower Canadian dollar may spur more Canadian exports this year.

"The combination of a rebound in Canadian manufacturing activity, a solid U.S. economy, and the prospect of more trade with Europe brings about several catalysts which may boost seaway tonnage," said Bowles.

Patterson praised the seaway corporation's modernization program, which Bowles said is now more than 50 per cent complete.

Upgrading locks with hands-free mooring is an example, Bowles said.

"We are making steady progress in bringing about gains in efficiency and safety for all concerned, ensuring a highly competitive transportation system for years to come," he added.

Francois Allard, director of marine distribution for K+S Windsor Salt Ltd., told Monday's crowd the seaway transportation network is the most cost-effective way to reach markets and it minimizes the impact on the environment.

The Thunder Bay's trip to Bowmanville takes almost 1,000 truckloads off Ontario highways, he said.

"It's important that all levels of government continue to invest in infrastructure along this waterway, and we applaud the modernization of the lock system."

The Top Hat Ceremony is held annually at Lock 3. The museum presents a top hat to the captain of the first ship through the waterway. This year it was to Capt. Jason Church.

Museum director Kathleen Powell the said the top hat harkens back to the days of the canal's founder, William Hamilton Merritt. He would likely have worn one at the first opening of the canal in 1829.

bsawchuk@postmedia.com

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Lori Bambridge
Sales Representative

Tom Bosley, President of Bosley Real Estate Ltd. is pleased to welcome Lori Bambridge, to our Niagara-on-the-Lake office. Born and raised in St. Catherines and a lifelong resident of Niagara Lori has chosen to relocate her real estate practice to Bosley. Lori brings a wealth of experience in new home construction along with residential resales; her knowledge and passion for excellence in client focused service fits perfectly with Bosley Real Estate's goal of ensuring that every customer experience is exceptional, embracing the best of real estate practices. Lori, we wish you all the very best as you continue your career here at Bosley and on your behalf invite your friends and clients to call for timely and market-focused answers to their real estate questions.

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More arrests at Lakeshore Rd. marijuana facilty

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

More arrests have been made at the controversial medical marijuana facility on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Members of the Niagara Regional Police executed a search warrant at 1651 Lakeshore Road Monday, for the second time since last September, and four men were arrested and charged with production of a controlled substance.

During the September search 11 people were arrested, and at that time none of the actual holders of licences to grow medical marijuana were present.

Police continued their investigation and learned that one of the licence holders was unaware their licence was being used at the Lakeshore Road greenhouses, and had never benefited from any use of marijuana grown there. As a result police believed those responsible for growing marijuana at that location were doing so illegally.

On Monday, members of the guns, gangs, and grows unit, the morality unit, PAVIS (the Provincial Anti-violence Intervention Strategy) and uniform officers of the NRP executed the search warrant. Police found four men inside and took them all into custody.

Charged with production of a controlled substance is 64-year-old Xiu Min Lin, 59-year-old Jin Seng Lin, 56-year-old Minh Fai Tong and 40-year-old Zeng Qiang Wang. All four were held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Again none of the medical marijuana licence holders were on site during the search.

Police seized 390 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of $390,000. They are continuing their investigation and encourage anyone associated with this location to contact them.

When the arrests were made last September, 800 marijuana plants growing outside, estimated at $1.6 million, were seized by police following complaints from neighbours about a strong odour from the plants. The town also had concerns regarding building code and property standards violations.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Tony Parker
Sales Representative

Tom Bosley, President of Bosley Real Estate is pleased to congratulate Tony Parker on another very successful year and his attaining membership in The Founder's Club recognizing his outstanding sales performance, placing him in the top twenty-five percent of Bosley Sale Representatives. The Founder's Club not only acknowledges Tony's outstanding sales achievement but it is an award symbolic of the culture of professionalism and commitment to the highest standard of customer and client service which are the cornerstones of Tony's real estate practice.

In presenting the award Tom Bosley said, "Your efforts are greatly appreciated not only by Bosley Real Estate but by the many families whom you have assisted in the buying and selling of their homes." Congratulations Tony on a great effort.

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The Niagara Advance

Peter Conradi regional editor
Penny Coles Editor

Point of View

Let's enjoy our recreational trails and be safe

It's spring, finally, and for all those but the most hardy winter enthusiasts, it means most of us will be spending more time enjoying the outdoors.

We see it already, on the trails and bicycle paths through and around town - people are again out walking, hiking and cycling.

During the recent warm spell, motorcycles made their seasonal come-back, their low, guttural rumble and roar a reminder to drivers to be aware and cautious.

But cyclists and e-bikes are quiet, not necessarily announcing their presence, so we all have to be aware of the etiquette of sharing our recreational trails.

And since we in Niagara are fortunate to have many recreational trails to enjoy, a little reminder of the courtesies of trail-sharing seems timely.

Of course the rules are different according to whether a cyclist, e-bike or even roller-blader is on a trail or road, where traffic laws prevail, but the ultimate goal, wherever we are riding or walking, is safety and respect for others.

On a trail, that means keeping to the right and passing on the left, while alerting those you are passing with a bell or a shout-out.

Pedestrians often seem on a different planet as they walk - enjoying the peaceful, quiet landscape, tuning out the world around them. They may be walking in couples, holding hands and chatting; they may have a dog, hopefully on a leash but that can never-the-less be easily distracted by some scent and dart off .

And these days, if walking alone, pedestrians almost all have ear buds and are listening to music as they stroll. They need to be alerted to cyclists and roller-bladers who might be about to pass them. A bicycle bell is not that loud - a cyclist's shout to tell someone they're passing on the left should always be appreciated.

An extra courtesy to pedestrians is letting them know if you're a lead cyclist in a group of two or more - it tells them what to expect.

Pedestrians too have a responsibility to be cautious and respectful - don't block the path, and be careful of any sudden movement such as pointing or moving to the other side of the path without checking over your shoulder - you could have a cyclist on your heels without realizing it.

And when a cyclist announces that he or she is passing on the left, it seems polite - and an encouragement that the shout is welcome - to say thank you.

Both pedestrians and cyclists can present a dangerous situation when they block the path, either because they're travelling in groups, or because they have stopped to chat or admire something on the side of the trail. Best to move right off the path.

It seems an unwritten rule, as many who frequent recreational trails will recognize, that everything intersects at once - you're walking along alone, haven't seen anyone for ages, when all of a sudden you spy a family with a dog and kids walking toward you and sense a bike or roller-blader coming up behind you. You just know everyone is going to meet at the same time. Don't assume others will clear the path - move off it and do your part to create a safe situation, and hope others will do the same.

And be extra cautious of kids on bikes, for their sakes as well as yours. Kids, it seems, have a tendency to be distracted when they see someone on the path, and especially with the young ones, they tend to ride in the direction they're looking. If you see a child coming toward you on a bike, assume they are going to head right for you and be prepared to get out of their way.

One more request for respect, and that's to the dog-walkers. We all love to see dogs allowed to enjoy nature as they should, running leash-free, wagging their tails and greeting all they meet. But most of us who use recreational trails see that situation fraught with danger for all - pedestrian, cyclist and dog. Best to keep dogs on a leash - municipal laws about dogs on leashes exist for a reason - and close to you on recreational trails. Stick to the leash-free park or, if you're lucky, private property where you know your dog is welcome and safe to run with abandon. And please, pick up any mess your dog may leave behind.

As we put away our winter coats and and enjoy the spring-like weather, let's get out and make the most of our recreational trails, and by showing some common sense and respect, allow others to safely enjoy them too.

Do you remember?

FROM THE COLLECTION OF JIM SMITH

This photo was taken in March, 1955, when a gigantic ice jam blocked the Niagara River. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage was caused to structures on both sides of the river. Attempts to blast the ice with dynamite to dislodge it were made by U.S. army engineers, with the aid of helicopters, but to little effect. This picture of life-time NOTL resident Chris Allen, posing on the mountains of ice at the Niagara Marina, was taken by his mother.

Letters to the Editor

POLITICIAN USING MEDIA SOURCE 'LAUGHABLE'

I must say that it was with some bemusement that I read the article (Niagara Advance, March 17) about the fast and loose remarks made by a St. Catharines city councillor against the Lincoln County Humane Society.

It is truly laughable that an elected public servant who felt it necessary to publicly disparage the LCHS, used as his sole source of irrefutable truth "review of media articles".

Brings to mind what the late great Will Rogers once said: "all I know is just what I read in the papers, and that's an alibi for my ignorance." That councillor should consider himself lucky that the executive director Mr. Strooband is only seeking an apology.

MICHAEL HOWE
NOTL

HOPE YET IN THIS WORLD

To a special person:

I would like to pay an extra and public thank you to an absolutely wonderful lady who works at our local liquor store in Niagara-on-the-Lake. (I don't think I should state her name.)

I was picking up a case of beer and when checking out I apparently dropped a rather fair amount of money on the floor ($900).

Luckily I was the only customer at the time in the store. Not really expecting to find the money, I went back to check anyway.

I was almost lost for words when the young lady said "wait a moment," and went to the back and on returning, handed me a sealed envelop with the money enclosed.

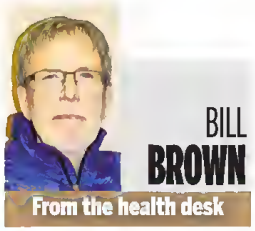
After a few hugs and thank you, I offered her a token of my thanks, which I had to insist she accept.

What a wonderful lady. This proves there is still hope in this world.

Thanks so much again.

TERRY MCGUIRE
NOTL

Walmart on right track with its approach to health care



Walmart is one of the most successful businesses in the world.

They got there by keeping track of the bottom line and overwhelming competitors with better prices. Paying attention to the bottom line is important in health care too. It's not just about cut, cut, cut, but getting a better product out there.

In the case of health, that means better and faster care without the long queues we're numb to in Canada. What can Walmart teach us? Two of the most expensive items in health care in the U.S. are heart surgery and surgery for lower back and to a lesser extent neck pain. Even if we don't so obviously count the cost of health care as the Americans do, be assured that if we did, the real costs to the public purse wouldn't be so different.

Low back pain is expensive not only because of the costs associated with the surgery, but so often it doesn't seem to work and because of the lost work time and disability associated with persistent back pain and immobility. It's not that there isn't a place for surgery, there is, but those cases are far fewer than the number of cases operated on.

Enter Walmart. Walmart's better idea was to reduce the costs associated with caring for employees with lower back pain and sciatica and the associated sick time while at the same time improving the lot of their employees. Sounds like a win-win. How did they do it?

What they did was to come up with a plan to offer a second opinion at one of six excellent health care centers in the U.S. such as the Mayo clinic and Cleveland clinic. All expenses were paid and the result was better for both Walmart's employees and Walmart's bottom line. What these excellent tertiary care centres provided was exemplary assessment and surgery, if needed, for the employee. The medical outcome was better for the employee and the bottom line was better for Walmart. A win-win.

Could we use this as a model for Canada? In Canada, one option would be referral for a second opinion and possible surgery at a tertiary care centre with the resources and expertise to provide the best assessment and care possible. Of course the Ministry of Health would have to fund and free up the necessary operating room time in the tertiary care centres to make this happen. But high cost, high volume cases where the standard of care varies so much, demands better innovative solutions.

Walmart may just be right on this one.

Dr. Bill Brown came to NOTL from Tufts University and the England Medical Centre in Boston, where he was head of neurology. He now teaches part-tine at McMaster University and also directs a multiple sclerosis clinic in Northwestern Ontario. He has been active in research for more than 30 years with several books to his credit, and recently has dedicated his spare time to improving the awareness of the NOTL public on many health issues.

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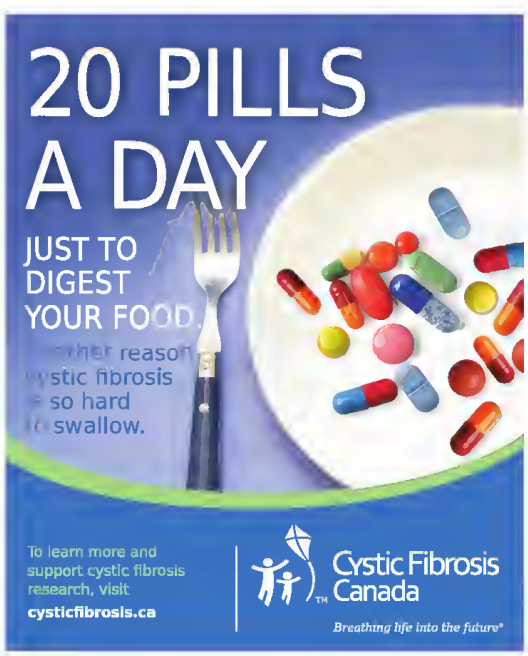
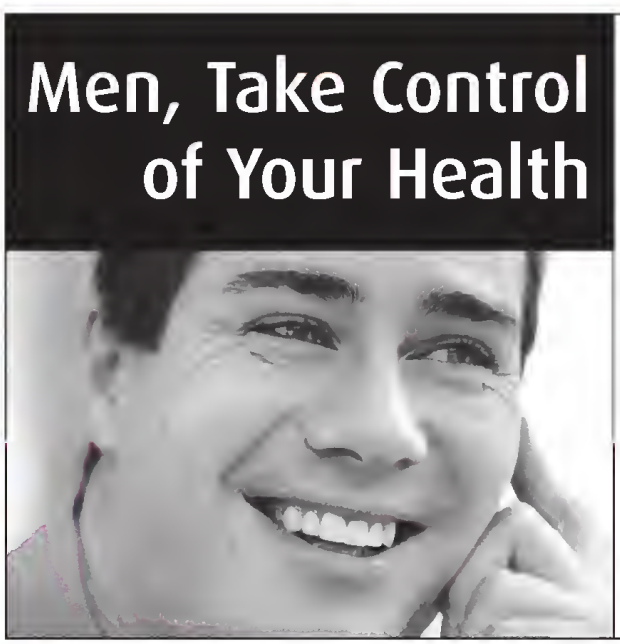




- be a non-smoker
- eat 5-10 servings of vegetables and fruit a day
- be physically active
- limit your alcohol consumption
- use sun protection
- follow cancer-screening guidelines

Find out **MORE** about reducing your risk of developing cancer. Call us at **1 888 939-3333** or visit **www.cancer.ca**.

Canadian Cancer Society | Société canadienne du cancer

Niagara-on-the-Lake EST.1781

1593 Four Mile Creek Road,
PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
Tel: 905-468-3266 • Fax: 905-468-2959
E-Mail: info@notl.org
Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.notl.org

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESSES IN THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has passed By-law No. 4863-16 designating the following property as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18

LOCUST GROVE, 421 HUNTER ROAD

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
this 24th day of March, 2016
Holly Dowd, Town Clerk

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The Town will be flushing water mains in the following areas on the dates stated below:

Bevan Heights	March 28 to March 31, 2016
Rural areas, Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil and Niagara-on-the-Green	April 1 to April 29, 2016

During this period, you may notice that your water pressure is low. Discoloured water may also be observed coming from the taps, however this should clear up within an hour.

To clear your service line, it may be necessary to run your cold water taps for a short period of time.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Water/Wastewater Section
Operations Department
905-468-3278

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

Second Draft of the Official Plan

PURPOSE

To hold two (2) open houses to review the second draft of the new Official Plan.

A copy of the second draft of the Official Plan will be available for review on March 21, 2016. The document is available for viewing at the following locations: Community Centre, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, Queenston Community Centre and the Municipal Offices. A copy is also available on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

The second draft of the Official Plan includes changes that have been proposed following the public review of the first draft in December 2015 and January 2016.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input regarding the second draft of the Official Plan is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking directly to staff and the consultants at one of the two (2) public open houses or by making a written submission to the Town. The open house is designed as a "drop in" where you can discuss specific concerns and issues with staff and the consultants. There will not be a formal presentation of the Official Plan.

OPEN HOUSE DETAILS

Date: **Wednesday, April 6, 2016**
Time: **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Place: **Simpson Room, Community Centre**
14 Anderson Lane
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Date: **Thursday, April 7, 2016**
Time: **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Place: **Mori Room, Community Centre**
14 Anderson Lane
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

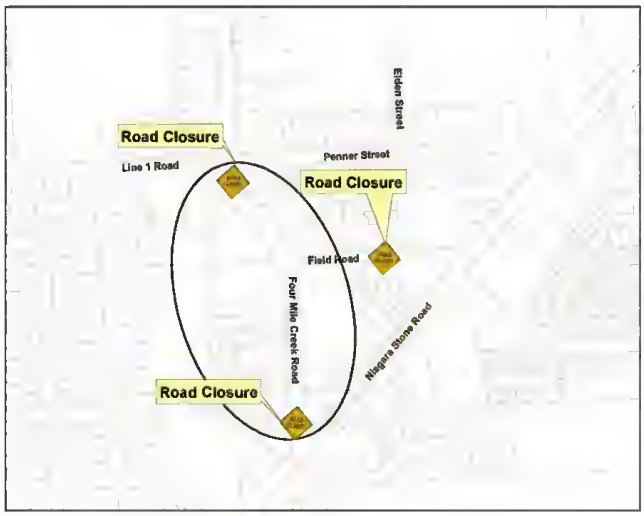
To provide input in writing, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0. Written submissions should be submitted to the Town by April 22, 2016.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information regarding the public open houses or other aspects of the draft Official Plan, please contact Leah Wallace, Senior Planner, at 905-468-3266, extension 245 or by e-mail at lwallace@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 24th day of March 2016.

ROAD CLOSURE – FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be reconstructing the existing roadway on Four Mile Creek Road between Niagara Stone Road and Penner Street. The work is scheduled from April 4 through to July 8, 2016.

This section of road will be closed to all through traffic from April 4-8 and April 11-15. (Please see the above sketch.)

A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic. This closure is necessary to facilitate the installation of a manhole structure and watermain relocation at the intersection of Four Mile Creek Road and Field Road.

Emergency Services will have limited access to the road during this closure.

Your co-operation is appreciated. Inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Technologist, at 905-468-3266.

Spring flowers brighten day for seniors

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

It's quick work for a room of experienced volunteers, who bring cheer to the lives of 250 seniors by brightening up their day with an arrangement of spring flowers.

The flowers send a welcome-to-spring message to the seniors of Upper Canada Lodge, Chartwell Residence and Pleasant Manor, who receive the arrangements put together by members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society.

None of the members are sure when the Flowers for Seniors project began, but it was at least 20 years ago when members decided they would deliver spring bouquets to the seniors homes in town - always on the Friday before the first day of spring.

Last Friday morning, about 30 volunteers collected in the Virgil arena meeting room and began the task of assembling the daisy bouquets for the annual project, while sipping coffee donated by Starbucks, and in little more than an hour had their task completed and arrangements ready to be delivered.

The horticultural society was established in 1917 and is one of the oldest in Ontario.

Its mandate is to give back to the community, and providing flowers to residents in nursing homes and the hospital helps to fulfill that mandate.

PENNY COLES/NIAGARA ADVANCE

Lita Clavier, chair of the NOTL Horticultural Society's Flowers for Seniors committee, collects some of the completed flower arrangements that were made by committee members and delivered to seniors Friday as a welcome to spring.

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

STARTING MARCH 31ST
FIND YOUR
SHOPPERS DRUG MART
FLYER INSIDE

The Niagara Advance

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Elegant family home. 9 ft ceilings, current decor. Impressive master bedroom suite. In-ground salt water heated pool! Call for your private viewing today! www.cudmorehomes.com

JO-ANN CUDMORE* 905-321-8126

340 GATE ST. | $1,395,000

This lovely 8 bdrm, 8 bath home sits in the heart of old town NOTL. This property has been run as a very successful B& B in the past converts well to single family home. Over 7000 square feet of living space.

Perry Quinn* 905-468-4214

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IMAGINE - THIS COULD BE YOUR VIEW! Enjoy waterviews from all principal rooms in this 2000 sq. ft condo! Marble & hardwood flooring, crown mouldings, gas F/P, 2 beds & den, 2-1/2 baths++. Priced to sell @ $1,150,000! It does not get any better than what this carefree lifestyle offers!
Visit: www.kingspointcondo.com

Call DOREEN IBBA* for your private viewing and details 905-351-0292 or 905-468-4214

527 MISSISSAGUA ST | $889,000

This home has a commanding presence and style. Main level bedrooms with ensuites, private balconies, 2 storey vaulted ceiling with stunning staircase. Truly unique home! Perfect for B&B. Ample parking. Call for more details.
www.cudmorehomes.com

JO-ANN CUDMORE* 905-321-8126

75 PAFFARD STREET | $468,000

End unit townhouse backing in to the nature trail. 3 bed, 2-1/2 bath, hardwood, finished lower and in very good condition.

PERRY QUINN* 905-468-4214

19 GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE

Sunlit 2+1 bed bi-level backing onto greenspace. Largely original awaiting your touches.
A great value at $405,000!

STEFAN REGIER 289-257-6744

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Cheryl Marr 905-246-4670
cherylmarr@royallepage.ca

royallepage.ca | www.homesniagara.com | 905.468.4214

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A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

ROYAL LEPAGE NIAGARA, 14 OFFICES, 380 REPRESENTATIVES

481 GATE STREET | $1,055,000

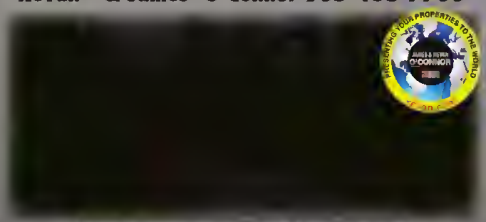
Inspired by Greek Revival architecture this spectacular home is designed to be a luxurious upscale B & B. The second floor provides 3 large private suites with high ceilings, full baths and gas fireplaces. All are double door entries off an expansive main hall the leads to a full second floor balcony.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

421 MISSISSAGUA ST | $595,000

A home of surprises! A great home at a great price in the best location only a few blocks from golf and everything the Old Town has to offer. 2,000 square feet finished on two levels with the perfect "in law suite".

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**



200 JOHN STREET | $7,950,000

The largest and most significant development parcel in the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Steeped in history and very much an estate setting with mature trees and winding drives. 24.43 acres in total with about 12.25 inside the urban boundary.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

21 LORETTA UNIT 15 | $339,000

Bungalow townhouse 1377 square feet. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, main floor laundry - open concept living - single car garage.

Helen Mosca 905-650-5669 &
Aaron Cherney 905-401-7915

TAKE A LOOK

UNIT 402-61 PAFFARD STREET | $349,000

Absolutely beautiful 2 bedroom penthouse condo, completely renovated throughout. Granite kitchen counters with stainless steel appliances, also washer and dryer included, crown moulding, hardwood floors, new broadloom and lovely neutral colours. Available for occupancy May 1st

Must seel Call Bev Wiebe* 289-407-5899

721 LINE 1 RD | $545,000

A beautifully built 1225 three bedroom bungalow with a finished basement. The log house was custom built by the owners in 1973. The property is great for a hobby farmer, with unusual fruit (North American kiwis and paw paw trees) and berries and lots of lots of additional storage

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564**

OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 PM

4 STONERIDGE CR. | $599,900

Open concept gorgeous kitchen with huge island and quartz counters. Beautiful spa ensuite with tiled shower.

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564

71 TANBARK ROAD | $899,000

This 3700 square foot, triple car garage stands on a full half acre lot. The house has 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and a finished basement with a walkout.

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564

1201 PROGRESSIVE AVE | $599,000

Custom built 1-1/2 storey on one acre with city water. Huge kitchen, stunning foyer, upper master suite. Call today to view. www.cudmorehomes.com

JO-ANN CUDMORE* 905-321-8126

1171 MCNAB ROAD | $1,750,000

17.5 acres of beautiful rolling hills, with separate 1/2 acre building lot. Update rambling century home, large barn, & 2nd leased residential building, pond, walking trails & 4 acres of peaches. A private hideaway hobby farm.

Stefan Regier* 289-257-6744

royallepage.ca | www.homesniagara.com | 905.468.4214

Bob Hunter a faithful, steadfast and solid member of community

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Bob Hunter was the guy who put the strawberries in the Strawberry Festival.

He was behind the first Peach Celebration, not only helping to organize the Queen Street event but heading to Toronto with a group of farmers to promote Niagara's harvest, handing out peaches in Nathan Phillips Square and at Union Station.

He passed away on Feb. 1, at the St. Catharines General Hospital at the age of 79, with his family at his bedside, after a lifetime of living on Hunter Road.

CONTINUED>Page 13

PHOTO SUBMITTED

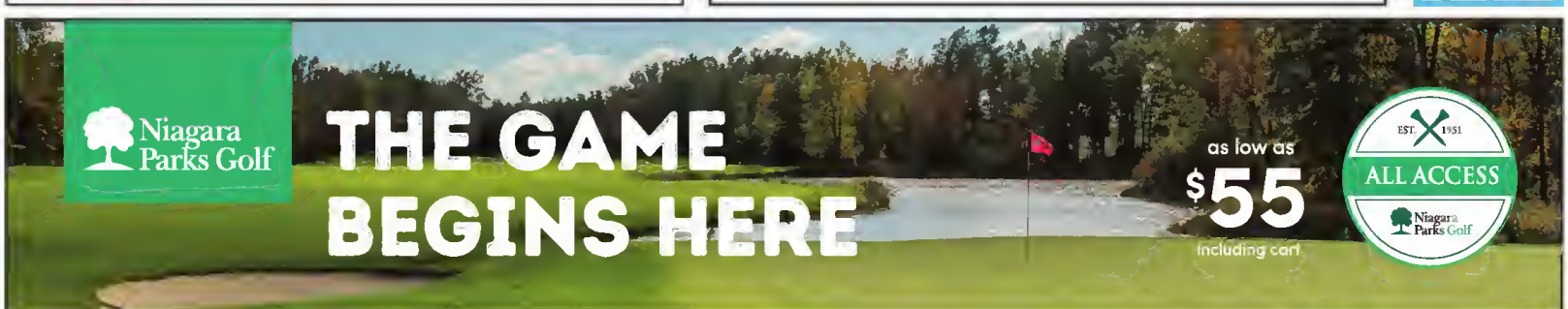
Bob Hunter will be missed by family, friends and the community.

don't be late ... Don't be Late ... For this VERY important Date ...

Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre Presents ...
20th Anniversary of the
Bunny Trail Spring Fair & Kinsman Egg Hunt

Saturday March 26th 10am til 1pm Rain or Shine
Niagara on the Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane, NOTL
Egg Hunt at 10am SHARP! Followed by Festival Events
Silent Auction, Live Music, Handmade Market, Inflatable Bouncers, BBQ, Bake Sale & Much More!
FREE ENTRANCE
for more information call 905 468 4386 ext 2
or go to www.niagaranurseryschool.ca

ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY - March 25, 10:00 am
EASTER SUNDAY - March 27, 10:45 am
434 Hunter Rd. NOTL 905.468.5731 www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org



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Packed church for funeral shows depth of respect

CONTINUED FROM>Page 12

He grew up on the farm, and took over the running of Hunter Farms, which was established by his family more than 100 years ago.

Doug Dineley, speaking from Florida recently where he was vacationing with some of the Hunter family, helped write his best friend's eulogy.

"I should have spoken" at Bob's funeral, he said, "but there was no way I could."

Bob, he said, was a people person - he loved the farm, but he also loved his family and friends, and loved nothing more than to have them all around him.

He was always active, with his family, the farm, his church, minor hockey, and agricultural organizations, but whatever he tackled, it was never for himself - it was always for others in the community, said Dineley, who met Hunter when he first came to Niagara 50 years ago, and quickly became and remained close friends.

"This has been a very sad time for us all."

Bob was known for an infectious grin and a twinkle in his eyes, says Dineley, and always made people around him feel comfortable and welcome.

His warmth touched all who knew him, said his friend.

In addition to the farm, Hunter ran two thriving farm markets, the first on the corner of Niagara Stone Road and Creek Road, which opened in 1959. In the late 70s he opened Hunter's Farm Market (now known as Harvest Barn), which was eventually taken over and operated for years by Dineley.

The Strawberry Festival, which was originally Bob's initiative, continues to provide lasting memories for church members and the thousands of people who have attended the popular event over the years.

He would work weeks in advance each year planning the event, which to him was more about bringing the entire congregation together than a fundraiser, and long after the Hunters stopped growing strawberries, he took on the task of sourcing the best around and making sure the festival always had fresh berries to sell and to make the strawberry products they sold.

These community events Bob helped found will continue to bring visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake - the Peach Celebration was taken over years ago by the Chamber of Commerce - but they do so because of his vision, decades ago, of promoting the local agricultural industry and at the same time helping his church and his friends.

He was active in many areas of the community - for 20 years he was a volunteer fireman; he spent 20 years on the town's irrigation committee, and 15 years on the Ontario Tender Fruit Marketing Board.

It was through his work with minor hockey that Dineley came to know him - Bob was on the NOTL Minor Hockey Association as president, director or coach for more than 20 years. He coached his sons and many other teams, and played several seasons himself first in the Lincoln League and then recently on Virgil's famous Friday afternoon team.

Hockey kept him busy, said Dineley - Bob believed that parents should not coach their own kids, so in addition to travelling with the teams he coached, he had three sons, all good hockey players on travel teams, whose games he attended.

Bob had a tremendous passion for his church and its preservation. He was an active member of the board of managers at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - he liked to refer to it as the board of workers. He participated in all of the building and restoration committees - the physical condition and spiritual strength of this church was always a focal point in his life.

Dineley says during the 1990 restoration of the church, Hunter said the new supports for the balcony would only be needed when a funeral could fill the church. More than 25 years later, it was Bob's funeral that filled it, Dineley said, with 500 people attending.

"He was so well-respected. He was a quiet person, but he would help out anyone who needed it, especially in the farming community. There are so many people who had such a high regard for him."

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484 SIMCOE STREET $439,000

Cottage 2 bedroom bungalow situated on a wide lot in a quiet residential area of the old town. Ideal retirement or starter home, cottage rental or future building lot. Close to Community Centre/Library and walking distance to parks, trails, Main Street shops, restaurants and theatres. **MLS# N30056647. Kim Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft.**

29 SHAKESPEARE AVE $379,000

3 bedroom home situated in great Chautauqua location close to lake and parks. Good sized backyard with mature gardens and attached single garage. Walking distance to parks, trails, Main Street shops, restaurants and theatres. **MLS# N30056674. Kim Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft.**

524 CONCESSION 1 RD $895,000

17 plus acre fruit farm. The land is well located close to the Niagara River with deep sandy loam soil. Excellent for growing tender fruit and grapes. Farm is currently planted to peaches (16 acres appx.) and one acre of plums. 4000 sq. ft. 3 year old barn with concrete pad. **Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

20 BROCK STREET $849,000

Located in the heart of NOTL in an unparalleled community known as The Village. 3600 sq. ft. of beautifully finished living space includes 2nd floor Loft & finished lower level guest/In law suite. 3+1 beds, 3+1 baths. This exceptional floor plan mirrors the floor plan of the award winning Hillebrand Model Home by Brookfield. **MLS# N30055560. Chris Bowron and Adam Hawley.**

104-106 NIAGARA ST. $950,000

A superior 5.54 acre property situated on the edge of the urban boundary surrounded by vineyard and green space and backing onto a creek. This rare parcel of land includes a 1200 square foot brick bungalow home as well as a 900 square foot guest cottage and a 1480 square foot workshop/barn. Ideal location offering a country setting within the old town of Niagara on the Lake. **MLS N30048077. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

25 HARMONY DR. $798,000

A 4 bedroom as new home situated in an upscale neighbourhood of the Old Town with approx. 3000 sq. ft. of luxuriously upgraded finished space and gorgeous salt water pool with connecting hot tub in a maintenance free backyard. **MLS# N30047297. Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft.**

10 STONERIDGE CRESCENT $710,000

Custom built Bungalow, Builders Model Home, loaded with extras. This home has a grand Foyer, the Great Room comes with 11 ft. ceilings, and the Master Suite features a large walk-in and opulent ensuite. The extra-large second Bedroom /Den will make a perfect Home Office or Media Room. The finished basement has an extra-large Recreation room, Guest Bedroom and Bathroom. **Randy Armstrong.**

137 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $599,900

A one of a kind home in much desired St Davids, excellent access to Niagara-on-the-lake, Niagara Falls, 3 golf courses. Fondly known as the grist mill, of 1782, it offers a delightful mix of modern renovations. **MLS# N30045774. Cheryl Carmichael, Randy Armstrong.**

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Victorie Bolduc*	905-941-3726	Trish Badham*	905-262-1876	Kevin Stokes*	905-988-3222
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Bonnie Grimm*	905-468-1256	Thomas Elltoft*	905-380-8012	Christine Bruce*	905-328-9703
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Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011	Sarah Gleddie*	905-685-2458	Linda Williams*	647-201-2889
Rendell Armstrong**	905-651-2977	Phyllis Henderson*	905-932-2589		

*** Broker of Record ** Broker * Sales Representative

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Making maple syrup on March break

RANDY KLAASSEN
Special to the Advance

Jacqueline Stearns of Virgil enjoys teaching her children with a variety of means, including researching and experimenting to make syrup from sugar maples.

What better way to finish off March break than taking a field trip and tapping a local maple tree to collect sap? It's all about science.

Stearns explained, "We tried tapping a tree two years ago, but it did not go so well. We used the metal taps with plastic hoses. We also found out that taps on the north side of the tree, where it is shaded, don't work. Even so, we managed about four liters of sap, which made a bit of syrup for family members."

While her son Eliot played with a drill, older daughters Elena and Renae both learned that to capture the sap running, they need nights when it freezes, and days when it's sunny and warm, as it was the day of their field trip.

Science is about experimenting, Jacqueline continued: "Last year we had such a late winter, and then suddenly it was spring, so we never got our taps set. This year it did not look promising, until this week, with the temperatures bounding between freezing and thawing - that's when we can collect the sap for syrup."

Having checked with Niagara area syrup farmers, the Stearns family learned any type of sugar maple will produce sap for syrup, but the black maples are best. "There are lots of maple trees around, but to tap them you have to do it right, otherwise you can kill the tree," she said.

The Stearns family visited local sugar maple farms to learn about making syrup, and then researched more of the process on the internet to learn to do it themselves.

"This year we are tapping a tree using a smaller hole, and just a plastic tube, instead of using a metal tap. We can see the sap running, so the process is working, plus there is less harm to the tree."

The Stearns children learned that tapping maple trees takes planning, and the right weather conditions. The planning begins by finding the right trees, and obtaining permission if on private property. The next step is to assemble the equipment of tubes and buckets to collect sap. After the sap is collected the cooking begins, which is a process of boiling off water from the sap until golden sweet syrup remains.

Making syrup teaches another important lesson: patience. With a bit of a sigh Jacqueline said, "It takes time to collect the sap, and then more time to boil it down to syrup, but the effort is well worth the sweet treat to share with others."

RANDY KLAASSEN/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Elena, Eliot and Renae Stearns of Virgil enjoyed their March break collecting maple sap to make syrup.

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Save $65 Sale 134.99 Reg 199.99 Power Pack with Built-In 400W Inverter. 11-2016-8

LAGOSTINA

SAVE 70%

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St. Vincent plans for Syrian family of three

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

Those were the words of Pope Francis, when calling on Catholic parishes last fall to take in Syrian refugee families.

So when parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake expressed a desire to heed those words, they approached Father Randy Gallant, pastor of the Old Town church, and set up a sponsorship committee to move forward, said church member David Galvin, who became chair.

As they moved ahead with their plan, the first order of business was to raise sufficient funds to commit to sponsorship, and that task was completed recently with a successful Taste of Freedom, a Syrian dinner at the parish hall, with chef Tim Vandelaar preparing the meal and comedian Joe Pillitteri as the event's MC.

The committee has recently learned they will be sponsoring a Catholic family of three - parents with a young son.

It was to be a family of four, but the family had a baby who tragically died in the Lebanon refugee camp, where they had no access to medical care, said Galvin.

"He is 31, she's 26, and they have a toddler, a little boy. The paperwork has been started - they need to go through the security and medical checks, but we're told there is quite a queue for flights."

The committee has been looking at housing options for their Syrian family, and hopes they'll be able to settle in NOTL.

"We want to be sure we have the best solution for them. We don't know enough about them at this point - whether they can drive, whether we can provide a car, or how much English they speak."

The dad is a chef, so NOTL could be the ideal location for them, says Galvin - he may be able to work and study English at the same time.

Relatives of the Syrian family, a brother and sister-in-law and their young daughter, also waiting in a Lebanon refugee camp, are being sponsored by the Star of the Sea parish in Port Dalhousie, so will be nearby, said Galvin.

"It will be good for both families to have that support," he said.

Neither family is expected in Niagara for at least three months, although that could change.

The local committee is receiving help from the St. Catharines diocese, which has named a Syrian refugee co-ordinator to help at least 14 churches sponsoring 21 families, although that number will likely increase, said Galvin.

The church must raise $30,000, and with $9,000 from the Syrian dinner added to what had been raised before the event, "we're well on our way to having sufficient funding" to fulfill their sponsorship commitment, but will continue to accept donations that if not needed, can help another parish with sponsorship, he said.

They have also started to collect furniture and clothing, and are using the parish hall for storage.

Anyone interested in helping or more information can email svdprefugees@gmail.com.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Father Randy Gallant of St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in NOTL and Bishop Gerard Bergie of the St. Catharines Diocese attended A Taste for Freedom, a fundraising dinner held in support of the church's Syrian refugee project.

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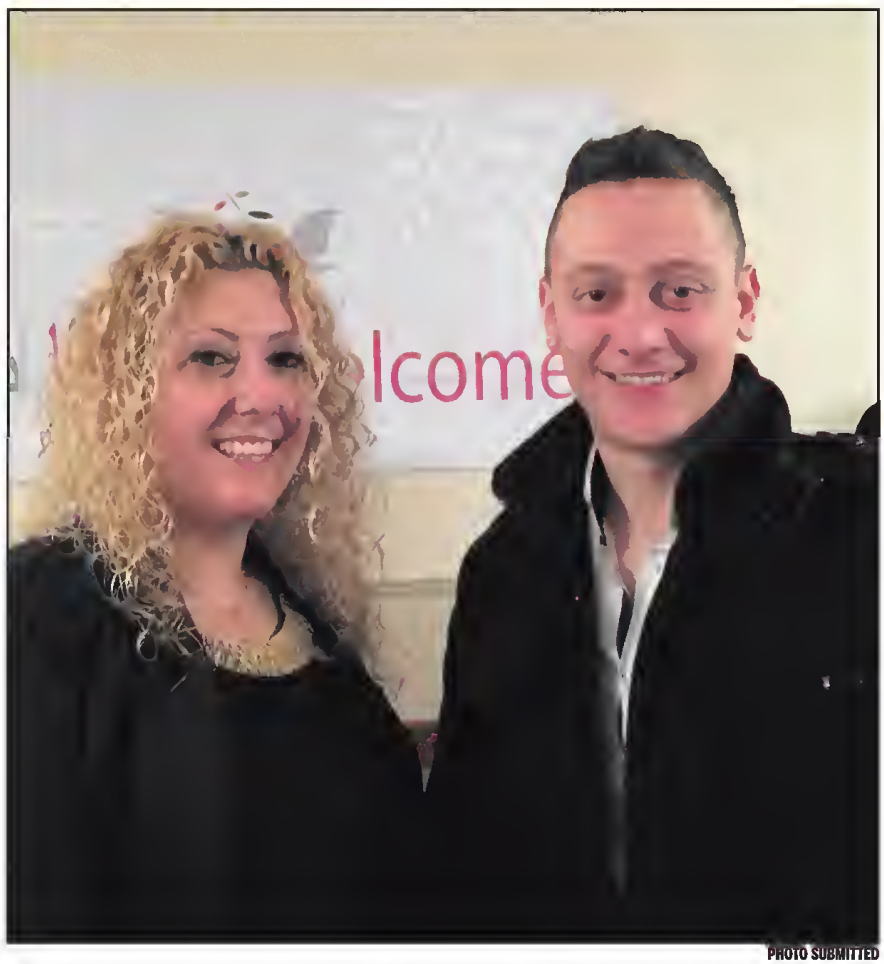

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Marilyn Nabilsi, the Syria refugee co-ordinator of the St. Catharines Catholic Diocese, brought refugee Mounir Nahat to the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church dinner held to raise funds for its refugee project.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pastor Scott Doggart (right) officiated at the March 13 installation of Pastor Michelle Mercer at GateWay Community Church in Virgil, where she was surrounded by husband Duane Mercer and daughters Hope and Micaela, with members of the church in attendance as well.

New pastor reaches out to community at Easter

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

GateWay Community Church is welcoming a new pastor, who although not settled here herself yet, is already reaching out to community to welcome others to the fold.

Michelle Mercer was officially installed at the Virgil church March 13, after many years of experience in the ministry, including seven years at Lakemount Worship Centre in Grimsby, where she oversaw the family ministries program.

She and her husband and two children will be relocating to NOTL - they've bought a house in St. Davids - but for now, they're commuting from Orangeville on weekends, she said.

During her time in Grimsby, she came to love the Niagara area, and is happy to be returning, said Mercer.

"We love being part of the culture and landscape of the area," she said.

"It's a healthy, safe environment for kids - those are things we considered as we thought about moving. We also love the multi-generational feel about the church. We love that we'll be raising our children in an environment that values all generations, with everyone having something to contribute. And we love the warm, friendly environment we can be part of as we grow in our faith together."

The Grimsby church where she ministered was very different from the church where she's accepted her current position - the community church visible from the Queen Elizabeth Way can see up to 800 people at a Sunday service, whereas the little church that operates out of the former Virgil school is hoping to build on a membership of about 40.

One way of reaching out to the community, says Mercer, is through the Easter Baskets of Hope initiative.

Members of the church have been asked to think of families or individuals outside the church who may need a little extra encouragement over the holidays, and baskets of items such as chocolates, colouring books, other small gifts for kids, and gift cards - whatever seems appropriate for the recipients - will be given to them by members of the congregation.

CONTINUED>Page 19

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Baskets of Hope include invitation to Easter services

CONTINUED FROM>Page 18

"They are gifts from our family to theirs," says Mercer, and include an invitation to the Good Friday Journey to the Cross, an inter-generational walk through the church to experience parts of the Easter story, and an Easter service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

"If anyone does not have a home church, you will find a warm welcome at GateWay."

GateWay member Shirley Eden says the church's pulpit search committee, of which she was a member, spent several months meeting and "prayerfully considering" many applications for the position of pastor.

"The list was shortened until we reached a unanimous decision to interview and then offer the position to Pastor Michelle Mercer," she said.

"Her years of experience and qualifications and especially her intergenerational approach make her a great fit for GateWay."

Mercer has already made great strides for the church, working from home, including improving GateWay's website, and creating a Facebook page and a weekly newsletter to keep in touch.

"We are especially looking forward to her moving to the area next month," said Eden. "Then she will establish regular office hours and be more available."

Originally called The Niagara Christian Assembly, the church opened in 1998 in the former Eden High School building on Niagara Stone Road, then operated out of the old Niagara District Secondary School across the street, and became the GateWay Community Church when it moved to the former Virgil Public School on 2012.

The largest classroom, closest to the original one-room school building, is the sanctuary.

Classrooms have been converted to Sunday School and fellowship rooms, and the former school office has been renovated to serve as a nursery.

There is a youth group that meets Friday nights, for high school-aged teens, and a group for younger kids is in the works, says Mercer.

There will be a summer day camp this summer, and there are children's programs on Sundays for kids up to Grade 5.

"We're looking forward to seeing more people joining our congregation, and welcoming them into our church family."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Michelle Mercer, the new pastor at GateWay Community Church in Virgil, shows off one of the Baskets of Hope that will be delivered to a family in the community, along with an invitation to join the congregation for Easter services.

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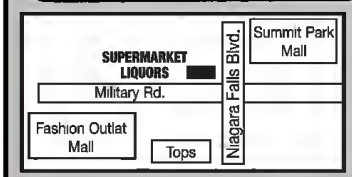

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Entrepreneurs face CBC's dragons

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

Some brought their ideas.

Others brought their existing companies looking for guidance in expanding their businesses.

Auditions for the 11th season of *Dragons' Den* were held Saturday at Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, as producers of the CBC show heard pitches from entrepreneurs.

Successful applicants will be invited onto the show to face the scrutiny of the Dragons — five Canadian business moguls seeking to invest in worthy ventures.

Auditions are open to all ages and inventions at any stage of development.

Sarah Leplae, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, pitched her Chic Mammas company on Saturday, and is hoping to get on the show and receive some business advice that can help grow her business.

"We're really aimed at making moms lives a little bit easier, so we've designed a full product line to help babies when they're teething, and help them when they're soothing and nursing," she said.

Leplae's company started 2½ years ago. Her first product was "teething jewelry."

"It's pretty stylish, but also it's safe for a baby to grab and teethe on. Following that, we started developing a line of pacifier clips. They're all made from non-toxic materials, and can be easily washed with soap and water, and into kids jewelry, and also nursing covers for moms."

She said her products are sold in about 100 retail stores across Canada and the United States.

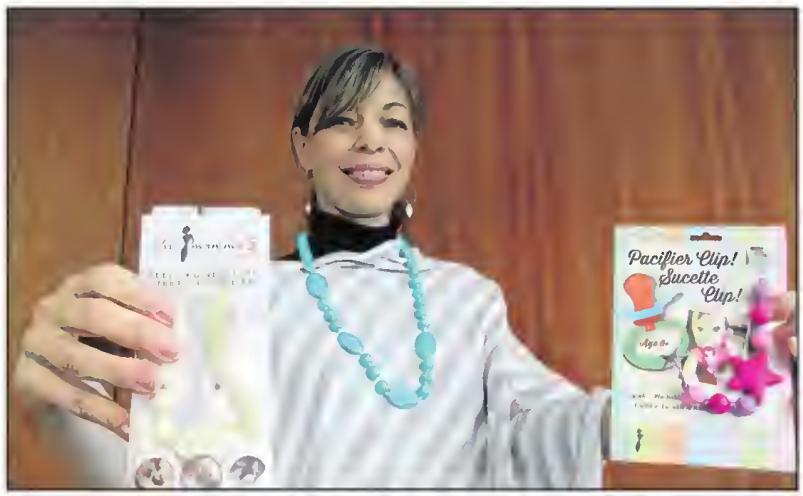
"I really have a great product, I already bave a lot of the distribution, but I think (*Dragons' Den*) can help me with just deciding where my next steps are going from here."

Andrew Wingrove pitched his Bee by the Sea Natural Products business on Saturday.

"We're a natural skincare company made with sea buckthorn berries that we grow on our farm, and unpasteurized honey," said Wingrove, who started the company in 2008.

"I just realized the healing properties to sea buckthorn, and we realized that if we put that with some other natural ingredients, primarily honey, we would have something that was really useful and beneficial to the skin."

He said sea buckthorn is full of nutrients, and "it's well documented to heal rosacea, eczema, burns, that sort of thing."



RAY SPITERI/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Sarah Leplae, owner of Chic Mammas, took part in Dragons' Den auditions, which were held at Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls on Saturday.

Wingrove's company has five employees, and sells products such as body cream, face cream, body butter, soaps, shampoo, conditioner and lip balm.

The products are sold in about 850 stores in Canada and the U.S., such as pharmacies, health stores, gift shops, salons and tourist destinations.

Anne Marie Beaudoin joined the company in 2011 after she started carrying the products in ber general retail store.

"This was the only skincare line I was carrying, and the most successful product I've ever had in 20 years of retail," she said.

Wingrove said the company's revenues have grown from $2,000 in 2008 to about $1 million in 2015.

Wingrove is asking for the Dragons to invest $300,000 for 30 per cent of the company.

"That's to help us expand the business, and continue to grow in Canada and outside of Canada as well," he said.

CONTINUED > PAGE 21

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RAY SPITERI/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Andrew Wingrove and Anne Marie Beaudoin, of Bee by the Sea Natural Products, take part in Dragons' Den auditions that were held at Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls on Saturday.

Producers look for passion, compelling stories

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 20

Wingrove said he believes some of the Dragons, with their expertise in web sales, branding and marketing, could prove "really beneficial" to the business.

"I think we've been innovators. We're not copying somebody else. We've taken a plant, and we've turned it into a product that actually helps people," he said.

"The business model is already there, and it's proven successful, it's just a matter of taking that model and expanding on it."

Ahmed Omar, associate producer for *Dragons' Den*, said Niagara Falls was one of the last stops on the 33-city audition tour of Canada.

During auditions Saturday, he said producers would likely see pitches from between 35 to 40 entrepreneurs.

Omar said producers look for compelling stories, such as "how you started the entrepreneurial journey.

"That's something that really kind of resonates with audiences at home, as well as Dragons."

He said they also like to see passion, such as "how excited or invested you are in your own business."

"We look for businesses also that would be appealing to the Dragons, so there's a bigger picture within the business ... and trying to take it from a small and medium business to something that you can see in every store shelf in Canada or the U.S."

He said even for businesses that have products on the market, they sometimes face struggles.

"There is still a lot of road to grow, so we do get a lot of businesses these days, given that the show has been establisbed for so long, and we've seen so many success stories come out of *Dragons' Den* ... who really want to take it to the next level — they're doing well, they have revenue, they're in Canada, but they need to take the next step to really grow the business."

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Egg hunt, Bunny Trail Saturday rain or shine

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Local kids will be hopping with excitement at the traditional Easter egg hunt Saturday, provided by the NOTL Kinsmen Club at the community centre.

And then for more fun it's on to the 20th annual Bunny Trail Spring Fair, hosted by Niagara Nursery School and Child Care Centre.

The egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. sharp, says nursery school supervisor Candice Penny - she hates to see families arriving just minutes too late and kids disappointed from missing out.

The fair will offer several inflatables outside, and a hand-made market and boutique with venders in the auditorium of the Anderson Lane Community Centre Saturday, March 26.

New this year will be a Burton Riglet park, designed to teach young kids the movements of snowboarding in a safe and controlled environment.

The events will be held rain or shine.

There will be a special guest appearance by Crystal Bunny, who will be there for the egg hunt and the spring fair activities.

The Bunny Trail is a fundraiser for the not-for-profit nursery school, which has operated as a parent-run co-operative for more than 40 years.

Funds raised have not been earmarked for any specific project, says Penny, but there are some projects coming up, and some "much-loved" toys that need replacing.

They also hope to add equipment to the outdoor playground for the older children who attend the after-school program, she said.

There will be a barbecue outdoors, and inside, a silent auction, games and crafts in the nursery school room, a magician, jazz music for the adults and back from last year, the very popular balloon creations.

The school's major fundraiser usually attracts about 2,000 people and makes about $10,000 to fund new resources for the kids and equipment for the school.

The fair runs until 1 p.m.

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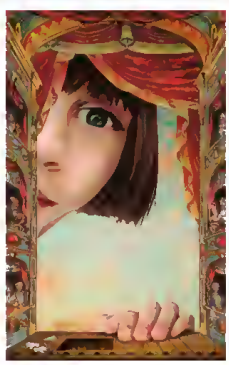

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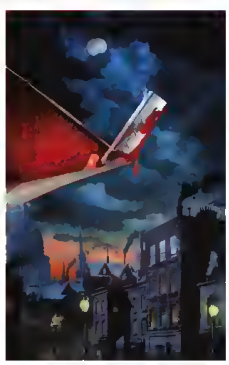
MAY 29 - 2PM
JUN 9, 19 - 8PM



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AUG 9 - 2PM
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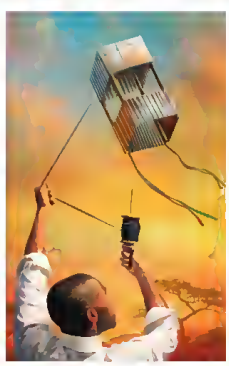

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Credit union members will miss Hilda

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Hilda Kroeker was definitely the woman of the hour at the Meridian Credit Union last Wednesday, as a steady stream of members stopped by to say goodbye and wish her well.

Kroeker, 65, has retired after 43 years of working for the Virgil branch of the credit union.

Although she loves to travel, and plans to do more of it now she has the time, she hasn't strayed far from home as far as friends, family and community are concerned - she grew up in Virgil, and has never lived anywhere but Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I grew up on Andres Street, went to Virgil Public School and then Niagara District high school. I've always lived here, shopped here, gone to church here. And I don't think I've ever come home after being away without thinking how great it is to live in this area, how blessed I am to be here."

When she began working it was at the Niagara Credit Union, in the Niagara Stone Road building beside what is now Valumart. It became the Meridian Credit Union when it merged with another company in 2005.

"It's been a great run," says Kroeker, who has nothing but praise for the way the credit union looks after its employees and its members.

She says she never focused on retirement at 65, rather planning on working as long as she was enjoying her job. She wanted to go out on a high note, while she was still healthy and had the energy to enjoy travelling with her husband.

"I feel so blessed to have been able to do that. It was my choice and my time to go," she said.

She loved her job, right to the last day, when she was touched by the number of members who contacted her to say goodbye - even some who have moved away, whom she hasn't seen for years.

She has a three-week trip planned in April to Cuba, and is looking forward to being able to get away and relax for that stretch of time.

And there's another trip planned for the fall, either out west or to Europe.

"It will be great to have more freedom to do whatever we want, whenever we want," she says.

The town has changed during her working years - although the branch still has many of its early members from the agricultural community, she finds the development that has brought more people to town "absolutely mind-boggling."

Even in Virgil, open land surrounding the branch and on both sides has been touched by development - that may be the biggest change, she says.

She will miss the interaction with the members, the challenges of an investment advisor, the responsibilities that came with it and the satisfaction of going home at the end of the day with a sense of accomplishment, knowing she'd been able to help somebody.

"The members have often felt like friends and family to me - but that's also been one of the hardest parts of the job. I've watched them age and I've been to a lot of funerals, and that can be difficult."

She eased into retirement with a shortened work week, and was able to work with her replacement, so she knows her clients will be in good hands, she says.

"Meridian is an extension of the community. The older members, the farming community, they all get the service they need, and I know they'll be well-looked after."

PENNY COLES/NIAGARA ADVANCE

Hilda Kroeker retired from her job as financial advisor for the Meridian Credit Union in Virgil last week, but not before a day-long celebration of people dropping by to chat and bring gifts, including several cards from children whose families are members. Kroeker began working at the Niagara Credit Union 43 years ago.

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CARP members give seniors a stronger voice

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

CARP Niagara, a chapter of the national organization that advocates for seniors and retired people, wants to strengthen its voice and become more effective for those it represents.

And the best way to accomplish that, says Niagara-on-the-Lake member Linda Mooney, is to attract more members.

The local chapter has 4,300 members in the Niagara region, but not all are active and few go to meetings.

"We're trying to attract more active members, who will work with us and who are interested in getting involved. We have so many people of retirement age in Niagara, and if you have the numbers you have a much larger voice," said Mooney.

The goal of the national organization is to promote social change for financial security, and work toward equitable access to health care and freedom from age discrimination by strengthening its mission to protect and advance the interests of Canadians as they age.

Monthly meetings in Niagara attract about 30 to 35 people - not necessarily members - although the March meeting, which featured Welland MPP Cindy Forster talking about the changes announced in the Ontario budget for seniors' drug plans, drew a larger crowd.

The change includes an increase of a senior's annual deductible to $170 plus $2 per prescription co-pay, up from $100, she said.

Seniors won't have to pay a deductible if they make less than $19,300, a threshold that was increased by the Liberals from $16,108.

CARP had issued a statement after the February budget saying changes to the Ontario Drug Benefit program will negatively affect seniors whose incomes are just above the threshold and who are dependent on multiple prescription drugs.

The Niagara CARP chapter invited Forster to their monthly meeting at the Ina Grafton Gage Village in St. Cathrines to explain the impact of the budget.

That's just one way CARP advocates for its members, says John Meguerian, vice-chair of the Niagara Branch.

The organization is promoting the ABCs of a "new vision of aging" - advocacy, benefits and community.

"Getting involved - that's what's really important," says Meguerian.

And while the benefits are appreciated - such as discounts from local retailers and for insurance, financial and other service - as are the social activities, what really matters to Meguerian are the issues of advocacy, in many cases, for the aging parents of members, who can be 45 and up, and for members themselves, as well as seeing members actively involved in their community.

Last fall, he attended a town hall-style meeting held by St. Catharines mayor Walter Sendzik, referred to as an Older Adults Forum, that was called to address the concerns of seniors and ensure an age-friendly community.

Although there was talk about what seniors were hoping to see, and a list of action items, "nothing's been done since," he said. "It seemed vague at the time, and it hasn't been acted on."

CARP Niagara needs to be involved in those discussions, he says, and he hopes to see some follow-up.

Susan Sutherland, like Meguerian and Mooney, joined because she could see the benefits of seniors having a stronger voice in Niagara.

Nationally, with more than 300,000 members, CARP has been instrumental in pension reform and health issues, and gets attention from all levels of government. Seniors have a lot of clout and a lot of resources, says Sutherland, and can influence the outcomes of issues by working together. CARP is acknowledged as being the organization that represents those seniors.

The next meeting is April 19 at the Ina Grafton Gage Village in St. Catharines, 413 Linwell Rd., when Heather Camphell, a representative from TD Waterhouse, will be talking about wealth management.

Members of CARP Niagara receive a magazine for baby boomers called Zoomers, as well as a monthly newsletter and information about community events.

That information is also available online and you don't have to be a member to access it or to come to meetings. Membership is $30. For more information visit carp.ca/niagara or email carpniagara@gmail.com.

PENNY COLES/ NIAGARA ADVANCE

Linda Mooney, John Meguerian and Susan Sutherland, members of CARP Niagara, met at the NOTL community centre to talk about the benefits of belonging to the organization.

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Exercise helps seniors remain independent

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

A free exercise program at the Niagara-on-the-Lake community centre is designed to keep seniors healthy, safe and strong.

It's offered in two different sessions, each with classes twice a week.

The program, offered by Seniors Community Programs and taught by trained instructors, was expanded last year to double the number of people who can participate, says instructor Amy Janitz, a falls prevention co-ordinator with seniors community programs.

Participants must pre-register and there is a maximum of 25 to a class. It's for anyone 55 years of age or older, said Janitz, and seniors have a choice of which two afternoons they want to attend.

At each class she focuses on different muscles, working strength, balance, co-ordination and flexibility, and preventing the muscle loss that comes with aging. To do that, she may employ weights, a stress ball, hula hoops, resistance bands, pool noodles and other equipment — using something different each time to keep classes interesting, she said.

Her goal is to make it easier for seniors to tackle daily activities, mimicking the movements they use at home. Exercises that make it easier for seniors to remain independent and stay in their own homes can focus on movements such as carrying groceries, going up and down stairs while carrying laundry, putting out garbage and getting in and out of a car or a bathtub.

"We want them to be able to stay at home longer by reducing the risk of falls," she said.

Each exercise, including some sitting and some standing, is offered with three options, to work for seniors of all abilities and levels of fitness. Someone who can't stand has the option of sitting and working arms instead of legs, says Janitz.

Ruth Kravec hasn't missed a session - she's been going for four years, and she knows it helps. A knee replacement last year went far easier, with quicker rehabilitation, than she was led to expect, and she's sure it's because of the exercise classes.

Plus she likes to get out and socialize, and the classes are varied enough that they are always interesting, she says.

It's not unusual for seniors to keep returning, says Janitz - they know what to expect and that they will be comfortable with the exercises, and they don't want to look elsewhere and find something that doesn't work for their situation.

The session currently underway is full, but the region keeps a waiting list in case there are drop-outs.

For more details about times and locations for the Healthy, Safe, Strong exercise program, call 905-984-2621 or visit www.niagararegion.ca/living/seniors/programs/healthy-safe-strong-exercise.aspx.

The program is administered by Niagara Region and funded by the Local Integrated Health Network.

PENNY COLES/NIAGARA ADVANCE

Amy Janitz leads an exercise program at the NOTL community centre, designed to help seniors keep active, healthy, safe and strong.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev Paul James
Easter Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
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Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: Victory: Crowning the King - Revelation 5

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10:45 am Easter Sunday Service
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Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox

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9.45 am - Adult Prayer Time
10:45 am - Worship Service ~ Message by: Pastor Reid Cooke
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Galatians 3:13
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SHAW FESTIVAL 2016

Building/Facility Maintenance Department Head

The Shaw Festival is seeking an individual to fill an Interim Head of Maintenance position for one year, with the possibility of extension. Duties will include training, supervising, providing clear direction to and assessing the performance of, maintenance staff on a daily basis; troubleshooting, coordinating, monitoring and performing regular and preventative maintenance of all aspects of building/facility operations including efficient completion of maintenance work requests, scheduled inspections/certifications and ensuring the facilities are safe for both staff and patrons.

Successful candidates will possess excellent troubleshooting skills, computer literacy and post-secondary education/trade certification in mechanical, electrical or facility/industrial maintenance as well as relevant work experience in the field. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to demonstrate flexibility, adaptability, patience and respect in the workplace is a must.

Must be able to work independently and also as part of a team.
Must be physically able to lift items or equipment of moderate weight, climb ladders, bend and work in confined or awkward positions at times.
Shift – Days – Monday – Friday. If you are excited about working for the Shaw Festival and have an appreciation for the Arts please forward your resume and cover letter **prior to: March 31, 2016** to:

Shaw Festival
10 Queen's Parade
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0
Att: Director Human Resources
Email: dlg@shawfest.com

We thank all applicants in advance, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

LOOK HERE!

SELL STUFF HERE!

Legals

NOTICE

All claims against the estate of GEOFFREY MAYO, late of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about the 26th day of October, 2015, must be filed with the undersigned Executrix on or before the 14th day of April, 2016; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED this 17th day of March, 2016

ELAINE MAYO
Executrix for the Estate
by her solicitor
RICHARD J. W. ANDREWS
202-111B Garrison Village Drive
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0

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e-mail: milestones.sun@yourlifemoments.ca

Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Coming Events

ALZHEIMER Society monthly Care Partner Support Group meets third Monday of each month 1:30-3 pm (except July & Aug) Alzheimer Society, 403 Ontario St. Unit #1 St. Catharines. 905-687-3914

Obituaries

DesBIENS, Emily Elizabeth - Suddenly at home, passed away on Sunday March 13th at the age of 84. Loving wife of the late Roland DesBiens. She will be greatly missed by her son Scott Ruttan (Norma). Predeceased by her second son David Ruttan (Jackie). Beloved grandmother of Jeffrey, David & Melissa. Emily was born in Toronto, and raised in Muskoka. She moved to the Niagara area in the 1950's with her first husband Mel Ruttan where she worked & raised her family. She later spent over 15 years living in British Columbia where she met her 2nd husband Roland. Emily & Roland moved back to the Niagara area in 1999 where she enjoyed her retirement years with family. A memorial service will be held at St. Andrews United Church, 5645 Morrison Street, Niagara Falls, on Saturday March 26, 2016 at 1PM.

Obituaries

MAURA PARKS, (Fraser)
September 1, 1925 — March 15, 2016
Port Williams, Nova Scotia

It is with sadness that we announce our beloved Mother has passed away gently and quietly at home, surrounded by family. Maura was born in Halifax to James Lloyd and Winifred Fraser. Maura was predeceased by her parents and her loving sister Carol Armstrong in 2000. During her childhood she lived in Hamilton, Toronto and in 1940 the family returned to Nova Scotia where she resided in Wolfville. Maura attended Acadia University and became a secretary, a profession she excelled at all her life. She married Barney Burton (Bud) Bishop (deceased 1968) in 1945 and welcomed three daughters, Wendy Morgan (deceased 1988), Anne (Bill Lochead) and Jane Ely (partner Roddey Cohn). Maura worked as a legal secretary from 1948 to 1953 in Wolfville and later for her father at Fraser's Supplies in Berwick. In 1962, as a single parent, took a brave step and packed up her girls and headed for Ontario. She enjoyed a successful working career as an Executive Administrative assistant to the President of Schindler Elevator in Pickering Ontario. Upon her retirement in 1989, she remained on their Board of Directors for several years. Retirement saw her living in Niagara-on-the-Lake with her second husband Ernst Thordahl (deceased 1995). She enjoyed the role of grandmother to Anne's three children — Tara, Jamie and Catherine and was thrilled to know her 4 great-grandsons, Aidan, Tristan, Owen, and Alex. She loved being "Auntie" to Paul, Lesley and Peter Armstrong and their children. Their visits with her meant so much. She was active in her retirement with her Tai Chi group in Niagara-on-the-Lake — making lifelong friends with this wonderful supportive group. She was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A very special friend, Neil Rumble, was always there to lend a hand and she was forever grateful for having him in her life. In 1997, she reunited with a childhood friend, Blanchard (Bud) Parks (Kentville, deceased 2001) and they married. Sadly, they did not have many years together, but those brief years were very happy ones. In 2015, Maura returned to Nova Scotia to reside with her daughter Anne and son-in-law Bill Lochead in Port Williams. Granddaughter Tara and her 3 great-grandsons were just down the road.
She was a mighty force in all our lives — she was the wind beneath our wings! Never judgmental, always willing to listen and supportive beyond belief in all that her family chose to do. Declining health in December 2015 made us realize we did not have a lot of time left with Mum. We would like to thank the following for their unmeasurable help the past two weeks in assisting us to keep her at home and in comfort: VON in New Minas, Palliative Care in Wolfville. As per Mum's request, cremation has taken place and a family service will be held in June.
Arrangements have been entrusted to Serenity Lindsay Funeral Home, Coldrook, NS (902-679-2822). Donations in Maura's memory can be made to the following: St. Catharines, Ontario Cancer Society for their help in driving her for her treatments, to Hospice Niagara in St. Catharines, VON in Nova Scotia and Palliative Care in Wolfville. Online condolences may be made by visiting: **www.serenitylindsayfuneralhome.ca**

"DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE NO ONE CAN HEAL, LOVE LEAVES A MEMORY NO ONE CAN STEAL"

In Memoriams

ZACHARY ANTIDORMI
August 10, 1994 - March 27, 1997

In Memory of our perfect Grandson, whose life was tragically taken 19 long years ago.

Remember darling Zachary, where ever we go, whatever we do, you are always there, living in our hearts.

Forever loved,
Forever remembered
and painfully missed.

Nana and Mungo

ADVANCE Notices

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FISH FRY
Public Welcome
Take Out Available
Every Thursday 4:30 - 7:30
New Members Welcome
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch # 124, 410 King Street, NOTL
Hall Rental Available ~ Call 905-468-2353

NOTL Skating Club SHOWCASE GALA 2016
HOLI'DAYS' TO REMEMBER
Friday April 1, 2016 - 6:30-8:00 pm
Meridian Credit Union Arena, Virgil - Tickets $5 (2 & under Free)
FEATURING our own local talent including 2016 Skate Ontario Provincial Qualifiers
Zoe Abraham, Rachael Hunter, Avery Royer, Maddyne Sullivan
with GUEST SKATERS
Natalie D'Alessandro (2016 Canadian National Novice Women Bronze Medalist) and **Bruce Waddell** (2016 Canadian National Novice Men Bronze Medalist)
Canadian National Champions in Pre-Novice Dance

EASTER SERVICES
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Thursday, March 24 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Rev. Bernie McGale

Friday, March 25 – GOOD FRIDAY
WALK WITH THE CROSS 9:30 am
Beginning at St. Andrew's
ECUMENICAL SERVICE
St. Mark's Anglican Church 10:30 am

Sunday, March 27 – EASTER SUNDAY
11:00 am Rev. David Lewis

323 Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3363

Learn Bridge Today!
Free Intro Session
Wednesday, April 6, 2016 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Penner Room, NOTL Community Centre.
Beginner Lessons start April 13 and run until June 1.
Cost is $80 for 8 lessons.
Please register for this free session and/or the lessons by phoning Marlene at **905-359-4433.**
Play Bridge, Improve Your Memory, Make Friends and Have Fun!
Sponsored by
Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre
www.NOTLDBC.ca

FAMILY FISH FRY
Friday, March 25th ~ 4:30 - 7 pm
(take out available)
1-Pc $8, 2-Pc $10, 3-pc $12
Price includes: Coleslaw, bread, french fries, baked potato, coffee/tea. Alcohol Available.
Fish Fry
Leave the cooking to us!
Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St.Davids
Next FISH FRY: Friday, April 8th ~ 4:30 - 7 pm

Place your Coming Event / Community Calendar Social here, with or without a border, Colour, Graphics optional. Include your Logo!
Deadline: Monday 3 pm
Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Nancy Bowslaugh gives a short lesson on "doubles" before the start of the Tuesday afternoon contract bridge game at the NOTL community centre.

Bridge centre offering more opportunities to play

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Duplicate bridge is a popular game in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and is about to become a twice-weekly event with the local bridge club.

Tuesday afternoons with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre began at the community centre about fours years ago, and Friday games have been added to provide another option for people who would like to play but may have other activities on the go Tuesdays, says member Marlene Walther, who will be offering duplicate bridge tips at the community centre Wednesday mornings for eight weeks, beginning with a workshop April 6.

Some of the 70 current members will be happy to play twice a week, she says, but the club also hopes the Friday sessions will help attract new members.

Duplicate bridge is a competitive form of the game in which the same hands are played by different partnerships in order to compare scores and results on an equal basis.

The competitive nature can be intimidating to some players, says Walther, but the club members are welcoming and friendly, and she urges players to come out and give it a try.

The Tuesday and Friday bridge centre games are sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League, and master points for each game are awarded to players for winning or placing. Players then advance through several ranks, receiving master points for winning and placing in club and tournament games as they strive to advance from rookie to grand life master.

Players keep the points they win and accumulate them over a lifetime.

The bridge centre has a healthy membership of about 70 people, but the games are not limited to members.

Although some bridge players may find duplicate bridge intimidating - and it is competitive - it should be fun, too, says Walther.

"Our goal is to have the friendliest game in town."

She finds duplicate bridge is also a good way to learn and improve bridge skills, since it shows how each hand, whether made of good cards or not so good, can be played.

"That's one of my personal reasons for playing duplicate bridge. You definitely improve your skills by comparing your results with others."

The Wednesday lessons begin April 6 with a half-day workshop at 9 a.m. at the community centre.

Then, over the following eight Wednesday mornings, beginner bridge lessons will be offered for $80 for the series. Contact Walther at 905-359-4433 for further information.

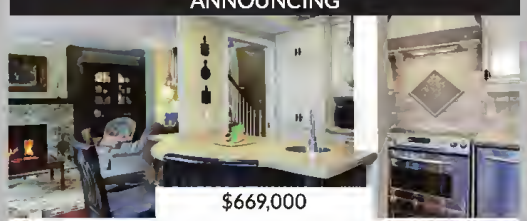
Also, thanks to the club's "vibrant" membership, a team of peer mentors has volunteered to offer play dates to anyone interested in improving their understanding of duplicate-style play through partnering with an experienced player at a real game, followed by a post-game chat. This is a one-on-one experience offered throughout the spring season. Call Gerrie Barnim at 905-468-2388 for more information and to be paired with a mentor.

Anyone interested in seeing what goes on at an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game is invited to come out to one of the regular games around 12:30 p.m., introduce yourself to head director Verne Chant or one of the game supervisors, and sit in as an observer just for fun and a free coffee.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the NOTL Duplicate Bridge Centre concentrate on their game of contract bridge, played every Tuesday afternoon at the NOTL community centre, with Friday afternoon games beginning April 1.

ANNOUNCING



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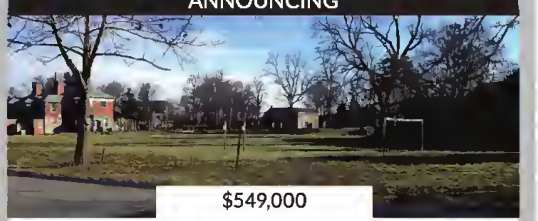

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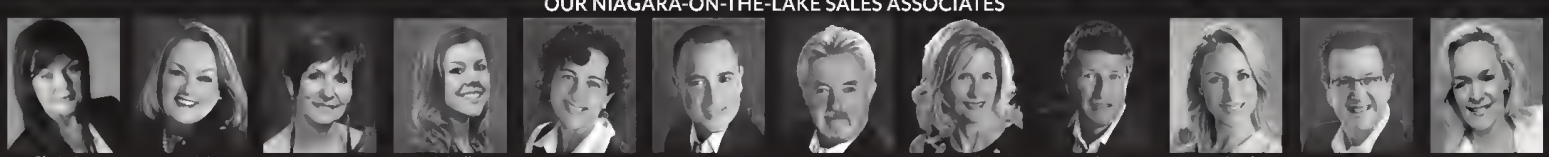

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Mary Jo Madera* 289-214-1772 in attendance.
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